Transfer of Latest Production Technology to Farmers

*89. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for transferring the latest production technology to farmers; and

(b) the tangible results of this effort?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The following steps are being taken to transfer production technology to the farmers;

(i) strengthening of extension services in the States/Union Territories;

(ii) establishment of training infrastructure to cater to the training needs of extension workers and farmers;

(iii) providing information communication support through print-mass media, exhibitions, Kisan Melas, agricultural films, etc;

(iv) organising study tours of farmers, demonstrations and interaction with the scientists;

(v) involving Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in extension efforts; and

(vi) augmenting extension support for farm women.

(b) Strengthening of extension services has resulted in:

(i) better transfer of technology from the research system to the farmers resulting in increased awareness about, and adoption of a new varieties, cropping pattern, agro-economic practices, timely use of in-puts etc.

(ii) adoption of high yielding varieties of rice in Andhra Pradesh, wheat in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, introduction of oilseeds and wheat in Assam, large coverage under soyabean in Madhya Pradesh, introduction of summer groundnut in Gujarat, sunflower in Karnataka, oilseads and pulses on in marginal paddylands in Orissa, shift in the cropping pattern in favour of oilseeds, pulses and dry-land horticulture in Maharashtra and increased production in sugarcane, cotton and groundnut crops in Tamil Nadu are some instances of the results of extension effort aimed at transfer of technology.

(iii) increased cropping intensity and yields in selected watersheds.

(iv) India emerging as a largest producer of fruits and the second largest producer of vegetables in the world.

(v) increased in fish production from 28 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 to an estimated 43 lakh tonnes in 1994-95.

(vi) increase in total foodgrains production from 50.9 million tonnes in 1951 to 190.10 million tonnes in 1994-95.

(vii) Increase in milk production (which was stagnating between 1947 and 1970) from 60.2 million tonnes (provisional) in 1993-94, and 63.5 million tonnes (anticipated) in 1994-95 which is expected to increase to 70.8 million tonnes (target) by the end of the 8th plan period.

Increase in egg production and broiler production over the last two decades from 8 million eggs to 26.2 million eggs and 4 million broilers to 300 million broilers in 1994-95.